

KAWAZOE et al.
Serial No.: 10/021,025
Amendment dated November 24, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated August 26, 2003

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 5 and 7-11 are pending. By the present amendment, claims 1-4 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein. Claims 5, 7 and 8 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 11. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of this amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments merely cancel selected claims and amend the dependencies of selected dependent claims to depend from claims that have been allowed. Thus, the amendments do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration. Moreover, the amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the amendment is proper, which action is earnestly solicited.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 3, 4 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, and that claims 9-11 are allowed. Without acquiescing in any of the rejections set forth in the Office Action, applicants have canceled claims 1-4 and 6, and amended claims 5, 7 and 8 to depend from allowable claim 11. Accordingly, all pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection are respectfully requested.


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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the entire application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that further issues require resolution prior to allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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